

Success Story

Provider Initiated Testing and Counseling Changing a Child's and Her Family's Lives

Fundacao ARIEL Contra a SIDA Pediatrica (ARIEL), HHS/CDC

After divorces, M and S found each other and married in Ponta do Ouro. Formerly a member of the Mozambican military, S was working as an electricity officer. M worked in a local restaurant. After a couple of months of marriage, the couple became pregnant. M, who had two healthy children from her previous marriage, did not attend prenatal care; she hadn't during either of her previous pregnancies and she did not understand the importance of it. In When M delivered their daughter in September 2009, HIV tests at the the maternity ward where she delivered were out of stock and she was referred for post-partum care and testing after delivery. When she attended her post-partum care and testing appointment one week later, she tested positive for HIV.

After M received her test results, the counselor asked her to return with her husband, S, to receive family counseling and testing. When they returned, S also tested positive. The couple began receiving regular care and treatment services. However, their newborn daughter, A, was not tested.

By 10 months, A was diagnosed with malnutrition and tuberculosis and referred to another hospital for treatment. Unfortunately, because they could not afford transport to the hospital where A was referred, the couple refused services for A. In addition to limited their financial means, M and S did not understand that another hospital would be able to provide services to help their very sick daughter survive. They decided that A's survival was God's decision.

Nonetheless, the counselor and nurse who had been working with M and S and had tested A did not give up on A. Together they began visiting the family's home to offer emotional support and attempt to persuade A's parents to take her for treatment. During these visits, the counselor and nurse repeatedly reminded the family of the medical care available for A and how critical the care would be for her to survive.

After four visits to their home, the family finally accepted the referral and took A to the hospital. When she was evaluated at the hospital, they discovered that her CD4 count was extremely low and she was diagnosed with AIDS. A was admitted at the hospital for an entire month of treatment, including antiretroviral treatment and nutritional rehabilitation. Gradually her health improved and has stabilized since her release from the hospital.

Today A is a healthy 3 year old. She lives at home with her family where she and her parents continue to do well. Like A, M is on antiretroviral treatment. Although S continues to attend regular consultations, is not yet eligible for ART. Her parents proudly cite her twice daily requests for her medication. The couple reports that the commitment of the counselor and nurse to persuade them to get A treatment and the huge impact the treatment has on their daughter's life has motivated them become activists in their community, mobilizing neighbors and friends to get counseling and testing.



Healthy 3 year old A living with HIV in the center with her father, S, on the left and the counselor who persistently pushed A's parents to take her to the hospital for care and treatment over 2 years ago.